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19 November 1958

Bob --

Comment on "Conclusions Drawn from Middle East and Taiwan Strait(s!) Crises"

quickly,

1. Your points apply far more to Middle East than to FE. Taiwan Strait crisis not very applicable, except perhaps obliquely re your points 2 (middle level military) and 3 (popular attitudes).

2. All the listed conclusions pre-date the ME and FE crises and constitute areas which US had already seen as needing operational emphasis. Accordingly, suggest your lead-off phrase be re-worded: " . . . the following needs were reinforced."

3. Suggest inserting "many" or "certain" in front of (all) "friendly governments" in your points 3, 4, and 5.

4. Your point 2, first sentence, might be re-worded: " . . . contacts with middle level officials and officers, especially those in the armed services." This suggestion has Taiwan in mind, since our Estimates say that these people, military and civilian, may in time have pivotal roles in defections to the communists and/or reconciliations to life on Taiwan.

5. Well, that's what you get for requesting comments.

htj.
Hal

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